

Message Text

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SUBJECT: STATUS REPORT ON SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBITION

REF: STATE 264129

1. SOVIET EXHIBITION IN LOS ANGELES HAS DRAWN LARGE, FRIENDLY CROWDS AND RECEIVED EXTENSIVE, FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE DURING OPENING DAYS. HARASSMENT BY PROTESTERS HAS BEEN MINIMAL, WITH POLICE AND FIRE MARSHALLS KEEPING DEMONSTRATORS WELL AWAY FROM ENTRANCE. TWO JDL PROVOCATIONS WERE DEALT WITH QUICKLY BY POLICE.

2. ATTENDANCE AT SOVIET EXHIBITION IN FIRST TWO DAYS WAS 41,647--A RECORD FOR COUNTED ADMISSIONS AT CONVENTION
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CENTER. ESCORT OFFICER REPORTED LONG LINES, WITH PATRONS WAITING MORE THAN TWO HOURS FOR ADMISSION. RESPONSE WAS ALL THE MORE REMARKABLE CONSIDERING THAT EXHIBIT OPENED DURING THREE-DAY ARMISTICE DAY WEEKEND. OVER 11,000 ATTENDANCE MONDAY AND TUESDAY WAS ALSO GOOD.

3. LOCAL NEWS MEDIA HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO PUBLIC RESPONSE

WITH EXTENSIVE COVERAGE AND FAVORABLE REVIEWS. LOS ANGELES TIMES SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13 FRONT PAGE LEAD STORY WITH PHOTO OF EXHIBITION WAS "SOVIET EXHIBIT OPENS TO PACKED HOUSE IN

LOSANGELES." ARTICLE DESCRIBED LARGE FRIENDLY CROWDS AND QUOTED VISITORS' COMMENTS SUCH AS "A SAN DIEGO BUSINESSMAN WHO DROVE UP JUST TO SEE THE EXHIBITION SAID 'I THOUGHT IT WAS MAGNIFICENT, EXCELLENT,'" LATER, ON INSIDE PAGE, ARTICLE REPORTED DISAPPOINTMENT OF SOME VISITORS OVER LACK OF INFORMATION ON AVERAGE SOVIET CITIZEN'S DAILY LIFE.

4. JDL HAS CREATED TWO INCIDENTS. ON NOVEMBER 12, YOUNG FEMALE JDL MEMBER THREW RED DYE ON SOVIET GEOLOGY EXHIBIT GUIDE FEDOR P. NEKHAYEV, RUINING HIS SUIT. SHE ALSO BIT A BYSTANDER WHO TRIED TO RESTRAIN HER. SHE WAS IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH BATTERY. US ATTORNEY IN LOS ANGELES HAS ENTERED CHARGE UNDER LAW FOR PROTECTION OF OFFICIAL GUESTS.

5. ON NOVEMBER 15, RABBI KAHANE AND 16 JDL MEMBERS ENTERED EXHIBIT AND BEGAN TO SHOUT "FREE SOVIET JEWS." THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH VIOLATING CITY ORDINANCE AGAINST DISRUPTING A BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT.

6. EARLIER, KAHANE STATED BEFORE TELEVISION NEWS CAMERA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT HE BELIEVED SOVIET JEWS WOULD NOT BE FREED UNTIL A SOVIET OFFICIAL WAS KIDNAPPED. STATE DEPARTMENT ESCORT ALERTED FBI AND SY TO KAHANE'S REMARK.

7. JEWISH EXHIBITION HAS ALSO DRAWN RESPECTABLE CROWDS, BUT DAILY OUTDOOR VIGILS HAVE BEEN SMALL AND QUIET. LIVE-LIEST DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED ON OPENING DAY WHEN GROUP OF PROTESTERS ENTERED SOVIET EXHIBITION CHAINED TOGETHER AND WEARING PRISON GARB. FIRE MARSHALL EJECTED THEM AS A HAZARD. OTHER GROUPS WITH PLACARDS AND LEAFLETS ON NOVEMBER 12 WERE TSARISTS, BALTS, UKRAINIANS, ARMENIANS (AGAINST TURKS), AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS OPPOSING SOVIET SLAUGHTER OF WHALES.

8. SOVIETS HAVE BEEN CAUTIOUS IN EXPRESSING THEIR

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS, PERHAPS RESERVING JUDGEMENT UNTIL IT'S OVER. THEY PROTESTED RED DYE INCIDENT TO STATE DEPARTMENT ESCORT OFFICER, BUT OTHERWISE HAVE NOT COMPLAINED OF HARASSMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY HAVE AVOIDED COMMENT ON LARGE CROWDS, FAVORABLE PRESS, AND LAVISH HOSPITALITY THEY HAVE RECEIVED FROM

MAYOR AND LOCAL WELCOMING COMMITTEE.
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